

# CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE STRATEGIC VISION BLUE RIBBON CITIZEN COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
MISSION, MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL OVERVIEW

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# MISSION

- The Mission of the Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.
- Public Trust Doctrine
  - Wildlife is owned by no one and held in trust by governments for the benefit of present and future generations.



# MISSION

- Expanding Mission
  - 1870 – Providing for fish restoration
  - 1878 – Authority expanded to include game
  - 1907 – First hunting licenses issued; warden force of 73
  - 1939 – Employ full-time disease investigation personnel
  - 1957 – Marine region created
  - 1970 – California Environmental Quality Act
  - 1984 – California Endangered Species Act
  - 1991 – Natural Community Conservation Planning Act



# MISSION

- Fish & Game Code sections 710 and 711
  - 710. The Legislature finds and declares that the department has in the past not been adequately funded to meet its mandates. The principal causes have been the fixed nature of the department's revenues in contrast with the rising costs resulting from inflation, the increased burden on the department to carry out its public trust responsibilities, and additional responsibilities placed on the department by the Legislature. This lack of funding has prevented proper planning and manpower allocation...
  - 711. (a) it is the intent of the Legislature to ensure adequate funding from appropriate sources for the department...





# MANDATES



Mission has expanded over time to include a broad list of mandates and activities.



# MANDATES

- Biodiversity Conservation includes:
  - Conservation planning and banking
  - Monitoring invasive species, exotic species and nuisance wildlife
  - Habitat enhancement and restoration
  - Resource assessment and management
  - Environmental Regulation
  - Natural Community Conservation Planning Act



# MANDATES

- Hunting, Fishing & Public Use
  - Provide hunting and fishing opportunities based on sound science
  - Issue permits and licenses along with public information and education materials
  - Population survey, monitoring and applied research
  - Recommend regulatory changes





# MANDATES

- Management of Department Lands & Facilities
  - Directly manage more than a million acres as wildlife and ecological reserves
  - Evaluate lands considered for acquisition for benefit to wildlife and fish resources
  - Establish and implement partnerships for land conservation and management





# MANDATES

- **Law Enforcement**

- Serve Public Safety and Homeland Security Functions
- Enforcement related to Habitat Protection
- Investigation of Illegal Commercialization of Fish and Wildlife
- Investigation of Pollution Incidents
- Enforcement on Department Lands
- Enforcement of Fish & Game Code provisions and related regulations
- Threatened & Endangered Species Protection and Investigation
- Invasive Species Investigation



# MANDATES

- **Communication, Education & Outreach**
  - **Communications - Internal and External**
    - Media relations
    - Publications
    - Staff communications
    - Special projects and partnerships
      - Tax Check Off, Trout Openers, Lead Ban Outreach, Keep Me Wild, etc.
  - **Education – In-classroom and out**
    - In-Classroom - Project Wild, Aquarium Education Program
    - Outside of Classroom - National Archery in the Schools Program, Fishing in the City, Fishing Passport Program, California Heritage Trout Challenge



# MANDATES

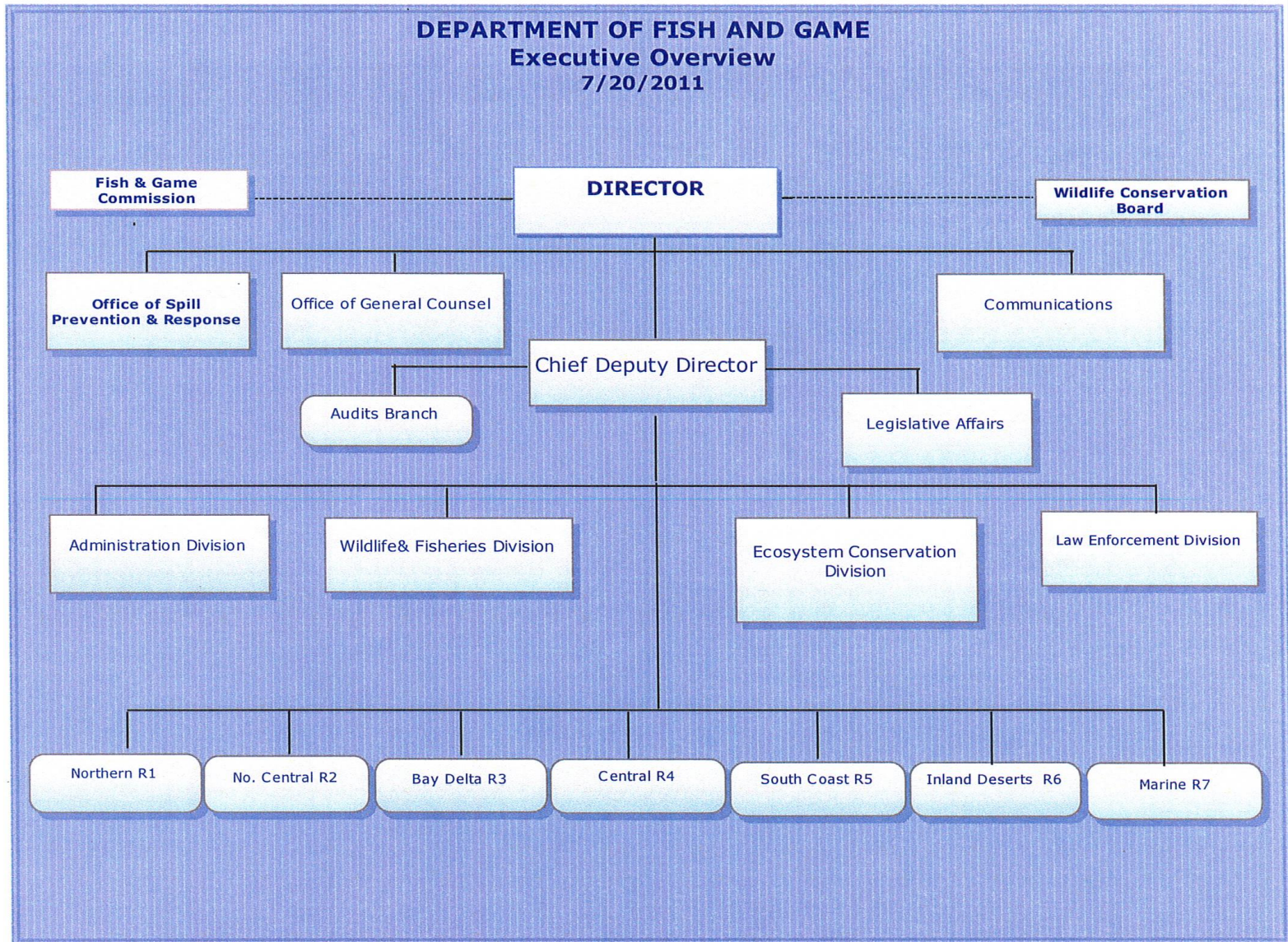
- **Spill Prevention & Response**

- **Responding as lead agency for oil spill prevention and response in California**
- **Preparedness and Prevention:**
  - Require oil spill contingency plans, including drills/testing
  - Monitor vessels during fuel transfers, ensure safety compliance
  - Develop and regulate best maritime practices
- **First Response:**
  - Participate in spill management
  - Protect sensitive sites, rescue injured wildlife
  - Investigate cause(s) of spill
- **Restoration:**
  - Assess injuries to natural resources and pursue monetary damages from responsible parties
  - Develop and implement restoration plans
- **Delegated responsibility for on-shore pollution events**





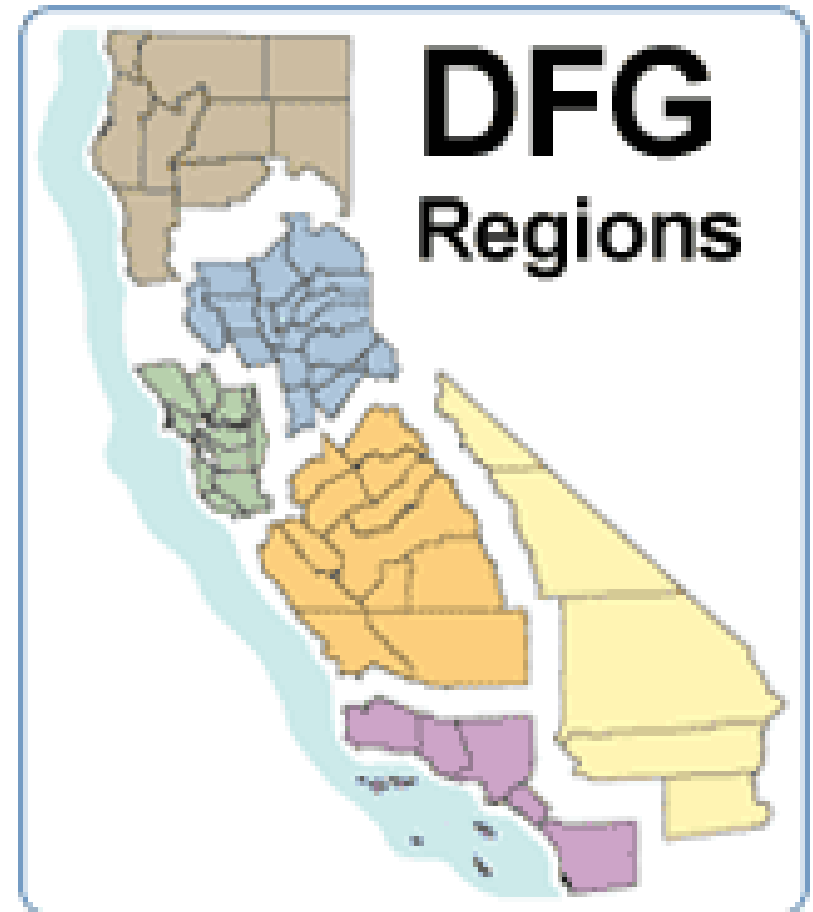
# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT



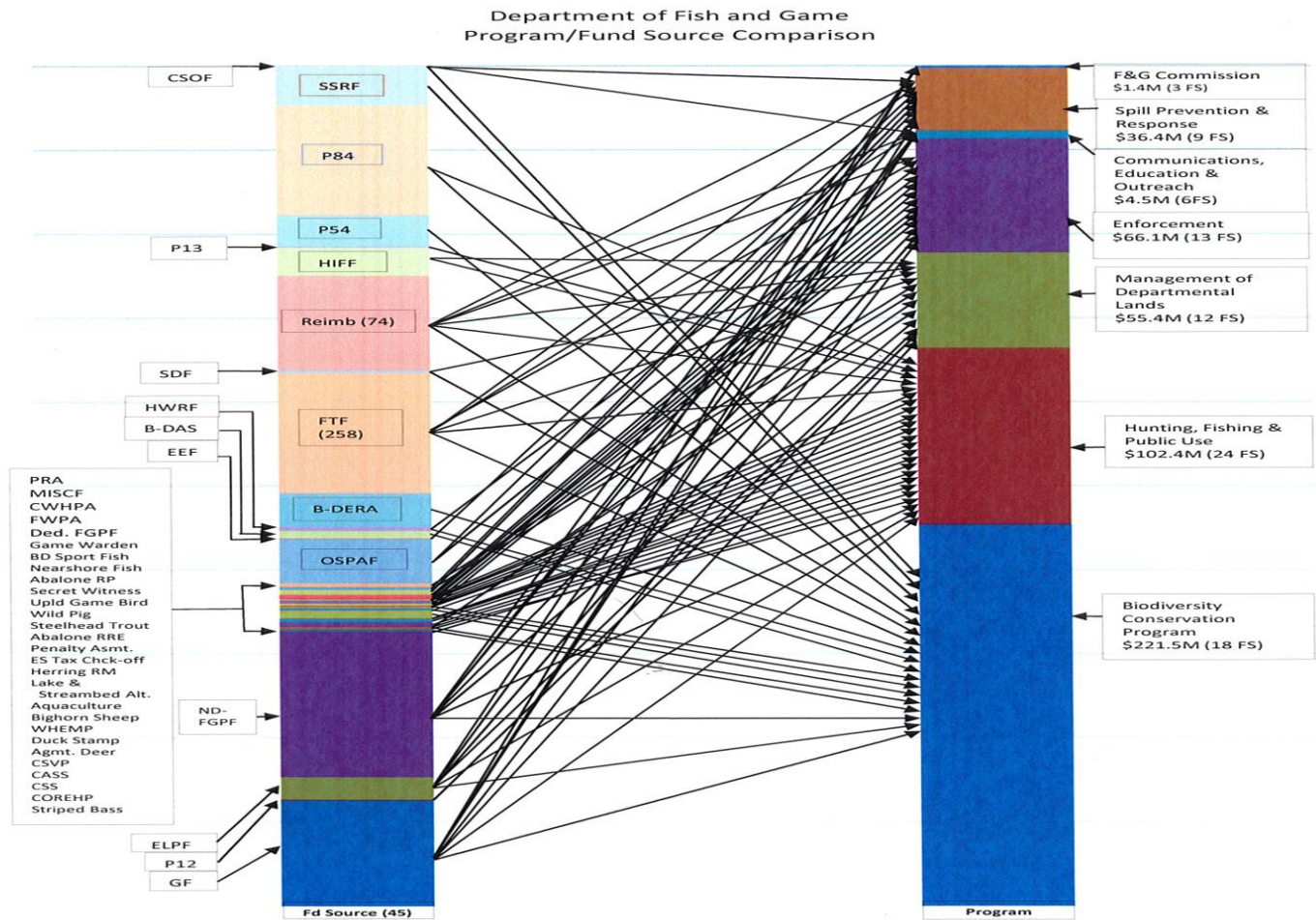


# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

- CDFG Currently Operates 7 Regions:
  - Northern California Region
  - Northern Central Region
  - Bay Delta Region
  - Central Region
  - Inland Desert Region
  - South Coast Region
  - Marine Region



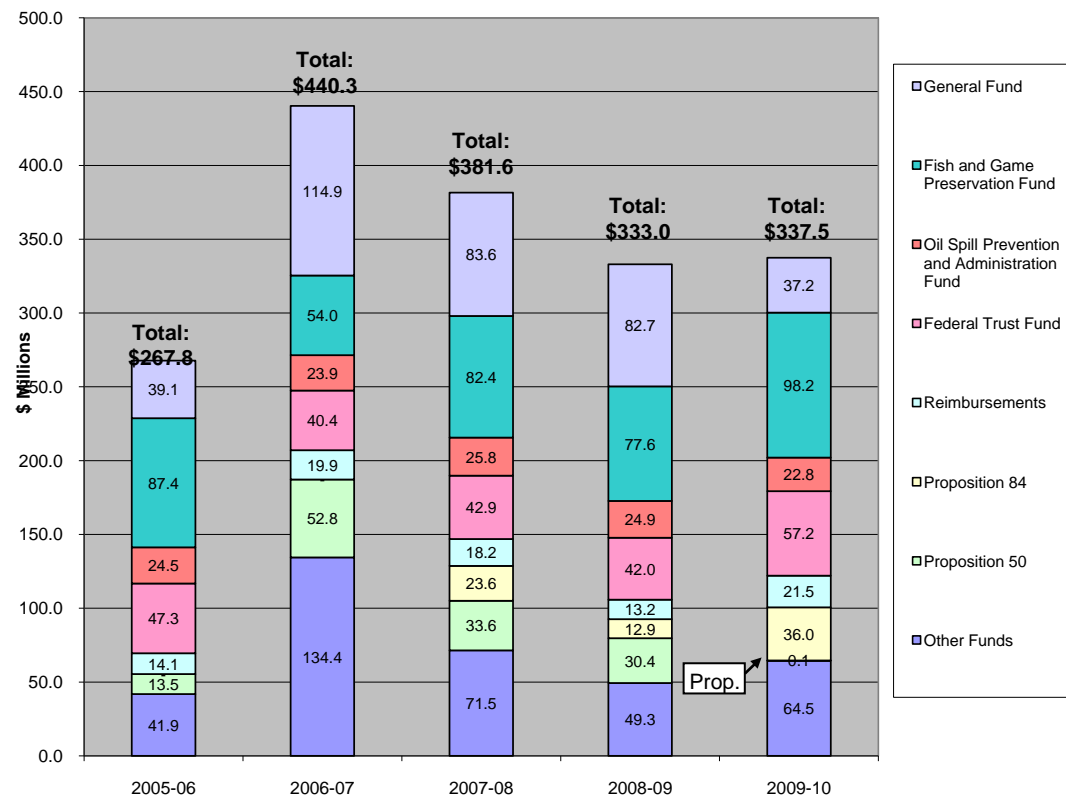
# FISCAL MANAGEMENT





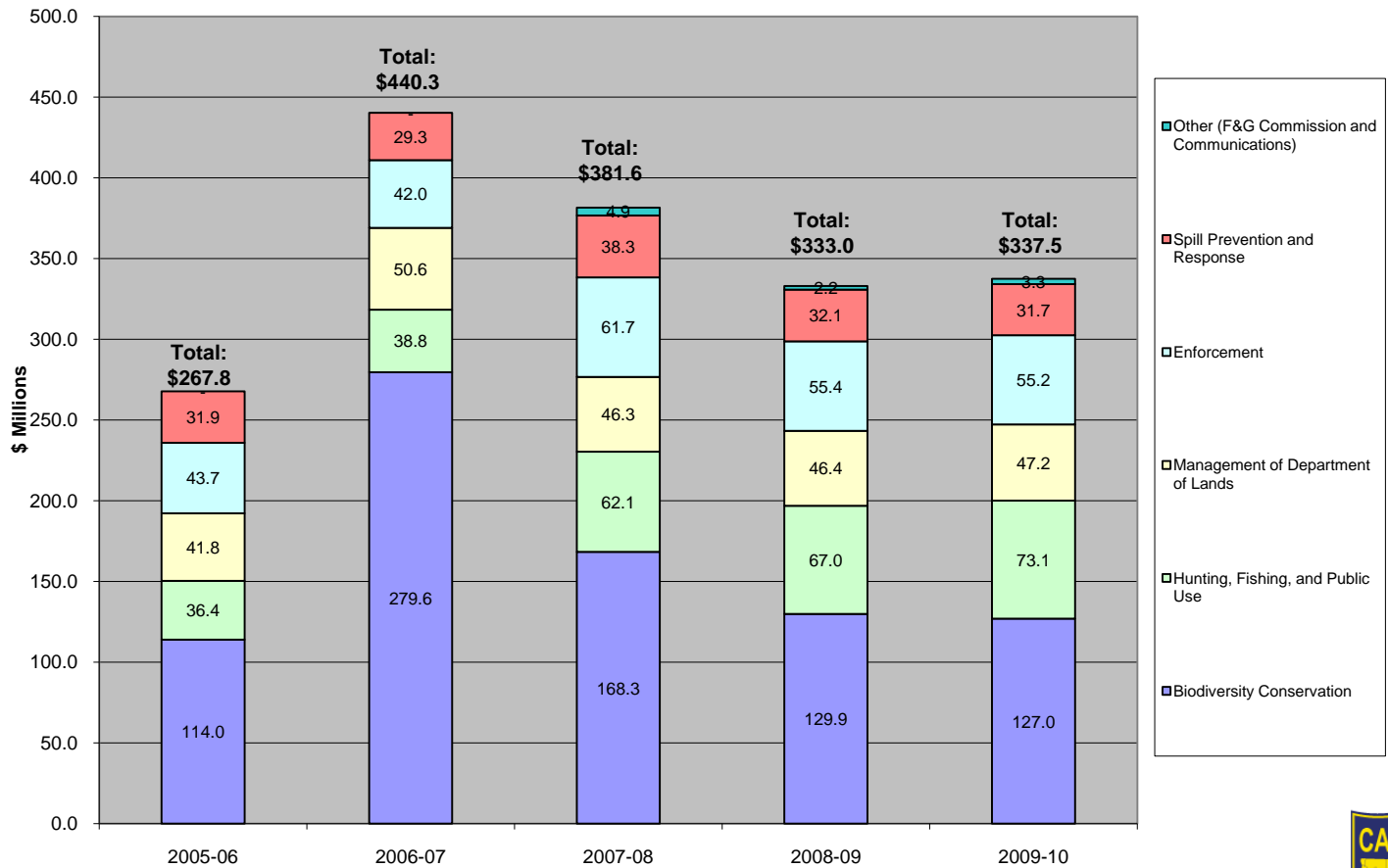
# FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Department of Fish and Game Actual Expenditures by Fund 2005-06 Through 2009-10



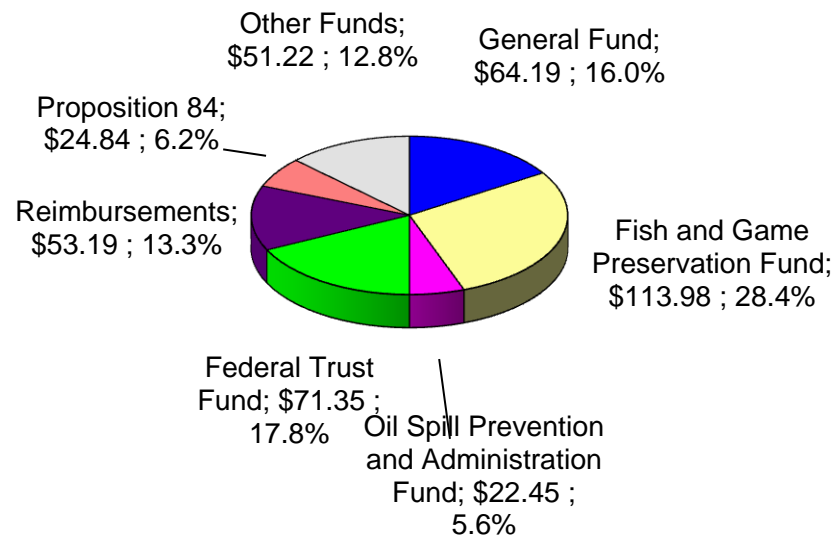
# FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Department of Fish and Game Actual Expenditures by Program 2005-06 Through 2009-10



# FISCAL MANAGEMENT

## 2011-12 Revised Program Budget (Dollars in Millions)



(Total: \$401.21)





# FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Fee Structure
  - The Department has over 300 different fees
    - 59% require legislation to change
    - 40% require Fish and Game Commission regulatory action to change
    - 1% can be amended by the Department of Fish and Game



# FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Sources of Federal Funding
  - Pittman-Robertson (PR)
  - Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA)
  - State Wildlife Grant (SWG)
  - National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
  - Section 6 – Federal Endangered Species Act



# QUESTIONS







# Who We Are

- Established by the State Legislature in 1870, the Fish and Game Commission became a constitutional body in 1940 by ballot initiative and now has approximately 200 duties/responsibilities delegated by the Legislature and specified throughout the Fish and Game Code.

# Who We Are (cont.)

- Commission members (five) are appointed by the Governor for six-year staggered terms, confirmed by the Senate, and compensated \$ 100.00 per day for up to five days per month.
- Support staff for the Commission currently consists of eight employees.
- \$1,400,000 budget in Program 61 of DFG

# Context

- Commission activities directly affect all Californians, including those with commercial and recreational interests and those interested in the intrinsic value of wildlife.



## Context (cont.)

- Commission style of governance was developed to avoid the undue intrusion of politics into agency management; ensure citizen participation in establishing policy for agencies; provide recreational opportunities by mandating stewardship for the resource; and ensure ethical and prudent operation of the agency.

## Context (cont.)

- The public and the resource benefit most when the Commission functions as one part of a strategic partnership with the Governor, the Legislature, the Department, and stakeholders.

## Context (cont.)

- A primary task for Commission staff involves completing regulations in compliance with provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act as reviewed by the Office of Administrative Law.
- The staff of the Commission and the Department collaborate to complete 40-50 CEQA-compliant rulemakings annually.

# Value

- Can filter out biases such as political motivations, short-term thinking, and special interests from the decision-making process.
- Act as advocates for what is right for the long-term future of the wildlife resource and the agency.
- Forum for debate of important policy.



# Vision

- The vision of the California Fish & Game Commission, in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game and the public, is to assure California has sustainable fish and wildlife resources.

# Mission

- Guiding scientific evaluation and assessment of fish and wildlife resources.
- Setting fish and wildlife resource management policies and ensuring implementation by the Department.
- Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management regulations.
- Building partnerships with landowners, public, and federal, state, and local resource management agencies.

# Roles and Responsibilities

- Establishing, amending, or abolishing hunting and fishing seasons and boundaries.
- Prescribing methods of take, including bag, possession, and size limits for game species.
- Controlling exotic species.
- Establishing/regulating use of wildlife areas and ecological reserves.
- Listing/delisting threatened and endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act.



# Roles and Responsibilities (cont.)

- Prescribing terms and conditions for issuance of most licenses/permits by the Department, and revoking/suspending privileges of those who violate Fish and Game laws and regulations.
- Providing oversight of the Department's conduct and budget.

# Strategic Challenges

- Adopt policies that assure resource sustainability
- Fully implement roles and responsibilities
- Improve organizational effectiveness
- Improve outreach/education
- Secure adequate funding/staff for success
- Develop long-term partnerships

# Issues

- Increasingly diverse constituency
- Tribal governments' sovereignty over natural resources
- Animal rights groups challenging ethics of hunting and fishing
- Inadequate financial resources
- Increasing human/wildlife interactions
- Litigation more common and expensive



# Issues (cont.)

- Exotic/Invasive species
- Water issues
- Youth becoming disconnected from wildlife
- Changing cultural landscape
- Conflicts between property rights, economics, and wildlife resources
- Marine Life Management Act
- Marine Life Protection Act

# Questions?



# CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE STRATEGIC VISION BLUE RIBBON CITIZEN COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
MEETING THE DEPARTMENT MISSION  
CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND SUCCESSES

KEVIN HUNTING  
CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME





# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Enforcement
- Renewable Energy
- Climate Change
- Population Pressure and Environmental Policy Shifts
- Human / Wildlife Conflicts
- Marine Policy Development & Implementation
- Regulation and Statute Conflicts



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Law Enforcement**

- LED mission is to protect California's natural resources and provide public safety through effective and responsive law enforcement.
- 392 sworn officers cover:
  - 159,000 square miles of land
  - 1.1 million acres of Fish and Game Properties
  - 1,100 miles of coastline including 7 major ports. Responsible for area 200 miles out to sea.
  - Over 300 million lbs. of commercial fish landings
  - 30,000 miles of rivers
  - 66,000 fish businesses
  - 1 million registered vessels
  - 38.4 million Californians



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Unfunded and Underfunded Mandates - Examples
  - California Endangered Species Act
  - Invasive Species Management
  - Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Anadromous Fisheries

*More To Follow...*



# SUCCESSES AND IMPROVEMENTS

- LED Straight Line Reporting
- Water Branch Creation
- Bay-Delta Region Reorganization
- Fiscal Transparency & Accountability
- Climate Change Advisor
- Automated License Delivery System
- Delisting of Protected Species due to Recovery – Brown pelican and American peregrine falcon
- State Safe Harbor for Working Landscapes
- Joint Policy on Anadromous Fish (Board of Forestry)





# SUCCESSES AND IMPROVEMENTS

- **Seven Strategic Initiatives**
  1. Enhance communications, education and outreach.
  2. Develop statewide land stewardship based on need.
  3. Develop a strong water resource management program.
  4. Develop stronger partnerships.
  5. Improve our regulatory programs.
  6. Enhance organizational vitality by focusing on employees and internal systems.
  7. Expand scientific capacity.



# SUCCESSSES AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Implementing Strategic Initiatives – Examples
  - Water Resource Management Program Initiative
    - Created Department Water Branch
  - Science Initiative
    - Adopted a Policy for Quality in Science and a list of Key Elements of Scientific Work
    - Joined California Cooperative Ecological Studies Unit
  - Partnerships Initiative
    - Significant partnerships
      - Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
      - Central Valley Joint Venture
      - California Rangeland Conservation Coalition
      - Generally advising local governments, various commissions, and working groups regarding biological, technical and conservation issues



# QUESTIONS



DEPARTMENT OF  
**FISH AND GAME**



# Fish & Game Commission

How do we improve our ability  
to fulfill the mission?





# Mission

- **Guiding scientific evaluation and assessment of fish and wildlife resources.**
- **Setting fish and wildlife resource management policies and ensuring implementation by the Department.**
- **Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management regulations.**
- **Building partnerships with landowners, public, and federal, state, and local resource management agencies.**



# Major Themes of Strategic Plan

- Ensure resource sustainability
- Implement proactive decision-making with foundation of best science available
- Be the public venue for natural resource issues
- Increase capacity
- Establish and maintain partnerships
- Clean up the Code



# Strategic Plan - Status?

- Fundamentally still relevant
- Missing components?
- Many successes
- Many unfulfilled goals and objectives
- Capacity limiting



# So you want to help?

- Repair code that does not work
- Fund or dump mandates

